(d) Government have adopted a multipronged approach which includes inter-alia strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of militants by proactive action against them in hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, better interaction with the border population etc.

Arms Dropping in Purulia

384. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large part of sophisticated arms dropped in Purulia in 1995 by a strange intruding aircraft reached the gangs of criminals in Uttar Pradesh, as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated the 2nd August, 1998; and

(b) if so, which criminal gangs have been found in possession of such arms and the details of persons apprehended and the identification marks found on such arms?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) A large part of the arms dropped in Purulia have infact been recovered only in one case one AK-56 rifle was found with a criminal who was killed in an encounter in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Attacks on Minorities

385. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of atrocious attacks took place on the minority communities in the country specially in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra since March this year with details thereof; and

(b) the action taken to restore minority confidence?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) As per the information available the number of attacks involving Christians or Muslims during the current year from 1.1.1998 to 15.11.1998 are given in the attached statement (*see* below).

(b) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation and detection of crime as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

Even as it is essentially for the State Governments to deal with crime, the Central Government has been providing assistance to the State Governments for improving their policing infrastructure, besides sharing intelligence with them. It has also constituted a special force, called Rapid Action Force, for assisting the State Governments in controlling communal situations. Guidelines have also been issued, from time to time, drawing the attention of the State Governments to the need for taking action against persons spreading ill-will, hatred or disharmony between members of different communities.

After the recent incidents of attack on minorities, the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States have been advised to issue suitable instructions to the District Authorities concerned to respond immediately to the complaints of atrocities/harassment of the minorities and initiate prompt and effective action to identify and punish the guilty persons. The Government is clear that acts of violence against the minority communities, whenever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and exemplary punishment awarded to the perpetrators.

Statement

Number of communal incidents Statewise involving Muslims or Christians

States	1998 (1.1.98 to 15.11.98)
1. Andhra Pradesh	17
2. Arunachal Pradesh	0
3. Assam	5